



Branson Briefs

A monthly e-Newsletter for the community providing information about upcoming activities, projects and events in the city of Branson

Volume 2, Issue 10

October 2010

City of Branson
110 W. Maddux
Branson, MO 65616
417-334-3345
417-334-6095 fax
www.bransonmo.gov

Hours
8-a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Mayor
Raeanne Presley

Board of Aldermen
Cris Bohinc
Mike Booth
Rick Davis
Bob Simmons
Rick Todd
Sandra Williams

City Administrator
Dean Kruithof

**Board of Aldermen
meeting schedule**
2nd & 4th Tuesday
of each month
7 p.m.
Council Chambers
City Hall

**Happy 60th
Birthday
Skaggs Regional
Medical Center**

City finances update

For August, the tourism tax revenue was down 2.5% from the same month in 2009. For the year however, tourism tax revenue is up 3.1%. Tourism taxes are levied on tourist related businesses like attractions including theaters, lodging and restaurants. Tax revenues are up 6.1% for theaters, 1.6% for hotels and 1.9% for restaurants from January Through August over last year.

The city's general sales tax on all retail businesses is practically even with last year — down just 0.1%

Total revenue for the city this year exceeds expenditures by \$9 million.

Nice surprise from school district

The board of the Branson School District announced they will roll back the school's tax levy by nine cents to \$3.86, saving district taxpayers \$600,000 this year. Superintendent Doug Hayter said the district is in a sound financial position and can make ends meet with less. For the average property owner, that's a savings of about \$25 a year on property taxes.



Natural gas soon to be an option

Crews from Southern Missouri Natural Gas have about half of the steel distribution lines installed and expect to have lines into Branson neighborhoods by year's end. SMNG, based in Mountain Grove, Mo, has 400 miles of pipelines and serves 8,000 homes, businesses and industries in six counties. They will run a gas line to your home, set a meter and convert up to three appliances free. 417-239-1550. Smng.biz.

City adds historical homestead to Lakeside Forest



Lyle Owen home built in 1911.

The historic Lyle Owen property in the middle of Lakeside Forest Wilderness Area has been purchased by the city. The 7-acres include Lyle Owen's home built in 1911, an old barn and stone walls built by Owen. This enclave will be preserved and restored and is a welcome addition to the 130-acre Lakeside Forest area inside the city that's being kept in its natural, unspoiled state.

Trails wind through the forest and provide views of Lake Taneycomco, 300 feet below the forest.

Strong August for convention center

Branson Convention Center officials used the word "great" to describe business at the facility during August. Total revenue exceeded budget by almost \$200,000. Year to date, the convention center is down only \$11,000 to budget. September should be a strong month also with three major events booked — car show, home show and statewide convention.

In 2010, the convention center has booked \$3.2 million in business compared to \$2.6 million in 2009.

Biosolids project gets state funding

An environmentally sound procedure that would transform wet sewage sludge into dried dirt has received a \$3 million grant from the Missouri Clean Water Commission. The grant money, along with \$3 million committed by Taney County, will be used to construct the biosolids facility most likely at Branson's Cooper Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2012. Several Taney and Stone county towns would use the facility to dispose of their treated wastewater sludge instead of spreading it on farm fields. This will improve water quality in the area's lakes and streams.

Halloween BooNanza

Sat, Oct 30

5:30 to 7:30 pm

Branson RecPlex

Citizens' Service Request Line

If you need a question answered about the city, or need to report a problem or express a concern, contact the Citizens' Service Request line at 337-8502. The line is open 24/7 and the city will respond to your request within five working days.

You can also e-mail a request from the city of Branson website www.bransonmo.gov.

In 2009, the city received and responded to 155 citizen requests.

New business in town

Sharky's Restaurant
239 Shepherd of the Hills
Expressway

Rotary Youth Fishing Tournament

Ages 3 to 14

Sunday, Oct 17

1-5 pm

**Don Gardner Par 3
Golf Course**



Officer Andy Yarnell (left) and Alderman Rick Todd.

City Employee of the Month

Officer Andy Yarnell of the police department received the Employee of the Month award for September for his involvement in two events that got criminals off the streets. In June, Andy played a key role in locating a murder suspect from Texas staying at a motel, and who kept police in an 8-hour standoff. The standoff ended peaceably.

In August, Andy investigated and solved a vending machine theft ring that had been plaguing the city for several weeks. He collected the necessary evidence linking people to the thefts.

New policies at recycle center

A couple of new policies have been put into place regarding items brought to the Branson Recycle Center on Compton Drive. The center is no longer accepting plastic bags. This is because the recycle center only processes items that other places can't recycle, and plastic bags can be recycled back at their sources like big box stores and grocery stores.

Also, the recycle center will not accept plastic bottles with their caps on. People now need to remove lids themselves before bringing plastic bottles for recycling.

Visioning workshops in October

Citizens have two more opportunities to participate in creating a new Comprehensive Plan for Branson that will guide our city's future.

A Visioning Workshop will be held October 7 at the Branson High School Auditorium. There will be two similar sessions for citizens' convenience, one from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and the other from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

A Possible Futures Workshop will then be held October 28 in the Keeter Center at College of the Ozarks from 5 to 8 p.m. Information collected from the earlier Visioning Workshop will be formulated into two or three alternatives for future growth.

October is Fire Prevention Month

This year's campaign is designed to educate residents about the importance of smoke alarms and encourage everyone to take the steps necessary to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection. Test your smoke alarm at least once a month. Throughout the month of October, firefighters will be presenting programs at area pre-schools, public schools, and businesses.



New Taneycomo Bridge

The new bridge across Lake Taneycomo in downtown Branson is now scheduled to open the last week in October. Paving the bridge is underway now. When the new bridge opens, the old bridge next to it will be closed for major renovations. The new bridge will connect with Branson Landing Boulevard on the Branson side of the lake, and motorists will use that street to connect with other streets to travel west throughout the city. Motorists also need to drive with caution through the bridge construction areas on both sides of the lake.

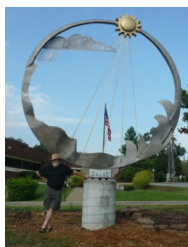
City employees help cleanup lake

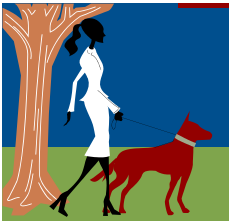
Seven city employees including the Mayor and an Alderman joined about 60 other volunteers to participate in the first Lake Taneycomo Cleanup Sept 8. The trash picked up filled three 30-yard, 5-ton dumpsters. The city volunteered its public works pontoon which employees filled up twice with lake junk. The City of Branson was one of the cleanup sponsors.



"Circle of the Waters" adds to downtown

A significant piece of Branson's public art is again on view after several years in storage. "Circle of the Waters" was mounted in an island on Business 65 in front of Branson City Hall. "Circle" was initially placed on the Taneycomo lakefront near the end of Main Street. After the lakefront property was purchased for the Branson Landing development, the piece was put in storage by the city in 2003. This spring, art supporters sought a new site for the sculpture, and with help from the city and Downtown Branson Main Street Assn., the Business 65 location was selected.





Dog park in Branson ?

Come join the Branson Parks and Recreation Department for a free hotdog/hamburger BBQ as you learn about the dog park being considered for Branson. Parks and recreation officials are looking for committed people that are interested in being on a dog park committee. Feel free to bring your furry friend!



BBQ Social

**Thursday, October 7, 6 pm
Stockstill Park**

“Greening Up Branson 2010”

City of Branson’s 2010 “Sustainability Education Series”

6 p.m. Tuesdays Before Council Meetings

City Council Chambers

Public Invited

4-part series to run September thru November, one hour prior to regular Board of Alderman meetings.

Mayor Raeanne Presley encourages citizens to attend. The series also streamed live.

October 12 – Practical Sustainability –

A Decade of Progress at Missouri State University

Robert Eckels, P.E., Director of Facilities Management, Missouri State University

David Vaughn, Director of Environmental Management, Missouri State University

- ◆ How MSU eliminated 1.4 million gallons of water usage
- ◆ Established Funding for Projects
- ◆ Converting Cafeteria Waste Oil to BioFuel for Campus Bus
- ◆ From 80% above average in energy consumption to saving \$1 million/year
- ◆

October 26 – Applied Sustainability in Business, Government & Home

Michele Halsell, Managing Director, Sam Walton College of Business’ Applied Sustainability Center

- ◆ Fayetteville saved \$24,000/year in energy savings in one building alone
- ◆ How to Reduce/Eliminate Waste or Else Make Something Useful Instead
- ◆ The Next Generation of Sustainability Thinkers

November 9 – New Energy from Empire Electric

Michael E. Palmer, Vice President Commercial Operations, Empire District Electric Company
Former Branson Alderman

- ◆ Empire District’s Role in Renewable Energy
- ◆ Wind farm contracts supply energy for equivalent of 67,000 homes
- ◆ Tire derived fuel- Converting 3.8 million tires from waste to energy
- ◆ Energy Efficiency for Businesses

Questions? Contact Mona Menezes 337-8566 or mmenezes@bransonmo.gov